Notes from the European front – 2023

Peter Tibor NAGY

I wrote these texts in Hungarian – as a civil scholar and professor of John Wesley College wesley.hu – to press the Hungarian socialist and liberal public opinion, offer arguments against the anti-Swedish, anti Ukrain, anti NATO and anti EU policy of Orban-gorernment. It is not a "good text" in English, made by google translate.

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02/24/2023

I am not a security policy expert.
Still, I say something, because the question is the situation that I live in the 2020s, and not what my field is. The incompetence did not go away from consideration.
So three things.
1. About what our business is, that is, what the world's business
For decades, many of my friends have heard from me, that my favorite book is book of Hamilton Fish Armstrong . Ha belonged to the Foreign Affairs - Incumbent from 1928 to 1972! " We or They : Two Worlds in Conflict "(1937). The book was translated into Hungarian by a famous person (Rustem Vámbéry), and it was published that year as part of the book publishing activity of Huszadik Század's successor magazine, Századunk. (Both of them academic reviews of sociologist – But not state-university employed sociologist, but private academics: lowyers, journalist etc Entitled "Mi vagy ők", which I a kind of mirror translation of "We or they". Armstrong's three previous books were about the fact that, contrary to many others, he pointed out that "Hitler's Germany in 1933" was only the first chapter of a larger story, about the fact that - contrary to the wishful dreams of those who sought to pacify Hitler - there would soon be a big war in Europe, and about (this is, by the way, Dulles - was a co author with Armnstrong), that America should not remain neutral.
This book (1937) is about - in emphatically simple language - that there is no point in looking for a compromise: the tyrants must be attacked as soon as possible, even taking on a war for this. And one should not be satisfied with a partial victory. Because "today's peace" only means that tomorrow we will go to war on worse preconditions. "Today's compromise" only means that the enemy can gather strength for our destruction from the profits of trade with us. There is no place on the planet for both of us.
During the Cold War, I did not see that Russia and China could be substituted for Germany in this story. I have seen it this way for two decades now .
2. Regarding the interest of Ukraine (the Ukrainian people), I would quote a "slightly" more recent text.
The results of a public opinion poll were published yesterday in the English-language paper in Kyiv. The Ukrainian representative survey was prepared by the International Institute of Sociology in Kyiv - it includes the opinions of pro-government and opposition parties, Ukrainians, Russians and Hungarians https://kyivindependent.com/.../survey-87-of-ukrainians... The respondents 87 % is against making any territorial concessions to the Russians for peace. There is hardly any regional difference: 89% oppose it in the West, 87% in the center, 86% in the South and 82% in the East. This is opposed by millions of people

who have never even been near the areas where Russian influence could extend (and remain extended).
So those who want immediate peace should think that it would be acceptable for the majority of Hungarians, for example , to annex Szeged or Pécs to a country that will probably remain outside Europe forever.
3. About “where Hungary stands.”
There is a memory politics program on Radio Oltalom. Last week, the presenter asked me - after all, it is Petőfi's year - what Petőfi – the famous poet of revolution of 1848 - would think today. And so - a little anxious, of course, from the non-historical answer - I answered three things. First of all, that Petőfi's real and most important idea was NOT the nation, but a struggle where the slogan of "world freedom" is on the flags, and tyranny " attack it” . And the date is not 1848, but 1846. When there is still news, there is no chance that anything will happen. On the other hand, a poem from June 1849: "Here is the test, the final test; The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming, It's already a reality here." The third was a thought race. Petőfi's most sincere thought or desire (if I read the poem “Apostle” correctly) was that the struggle for freedom would somehow not be led by the nobles and not by the historical classes assigned to it. But the kind, the itinerant actors, the poets. Civilians if you like. Petőfi would see himself in Zelenskiy , the actor-president.

11.04.2023
Finland before 1940 Kyösti Kallio was born 150 years ago .
online miniconference on WJLF. Kyösti From the beginning of the twentieth century, Kallio was politically active in Finland, which groaned under the yoke of the Russian Empire. He had a rare ability to create social consensus - although he himself was a right-wing politician, and at that time the whole of Europe was moving in the direction of radical right-wing politics, he brought social democrats to power. During his republican presidency, Finland fought a war against the Soviet Union, which cooperated with Hitler.
Ferenc Kaiser and Iván Szegő gave a military history and political history presentation about Finland before 1940 , which opposed the Soviet Union, which cooperated with Nazi Germany in 1939-1941 and nurtured Russian imperial ambitions . , which created the foundations of the later "Finnish miracle" after a bloody civil war .
In his opening speech, Tibor Péter Nagy explained that the conference was organized because we wanted to show that we condemn and are ashamed of the shameful behavior of the Hungarian government and the Hungarian parliamentary majority, which until recently hindered one of the most important historical issues of the free world, Finland's accession to NATO.

12.04.2023
Since I am neither a politician nor a diplomat, I have to say that Orbán and Erdoğan are NOT wrong when they connect Sweden's NATO accession with political matters. As you know , NATO is really an alliance of values, as opposed to the majority of military organizations in the world .
There are no perfect countries, and neither is Sweden. It is even possible that Erdoğan may have some truth in the case of Kurdish emigrants' terrorist connections . Still: there is everything we know about Sweden and there is everything we know about Turkey, this is not a prerequisite , but an afterthought. I mean in terms of modernization , legal, cultural, women's rights etc. - in matters of historical scale , it is more customary to adjust the policy accordingly. Turkey's way - if you don't want to sink back into the hopeless centuries of Turkish history, you can't lead anywhere but to the West. You can be hostile to Sweden in all

kinds of ways, you can even break diplomatic relations, you can boycott Swedish goods. But NATO is something else.
I also understand that the Orbáns do not like the critical words of Swedish politicians. However, there is this frivolous freedom of speech, the general suspension of which has not even been announced by FIDESZ for Hungary , so the fact that it is practiced by others in other countries cannot be a real consideration. That is, for those FIDESZ voters who still imagine Hungary's future in Europe or on the side of the free world.
Orbán and Erdoğan can choose the terrible shadows of Hungarian and Turkish history, since it is a matter of choosing political values. This choice of values can result in the blocking of Sweden formally becoming a part of the community, of which politically - and perhaps also in terms of security policy - it is much more a part than Hungary or Turkey. However, they did not promise this to their party and voters . If the part of the voters who are friends with Erdoğan and Orbán, who even know what NATO is and where Sweden is, do not express their displeasure now, the trouble is even bigger than we thought.

30.06 2023

The Monroe principle, Attila József, Biden and Zelenskij

Two hundred years ago this year, in 1823, the sky over Europe darkened. Eight years ago , those who were prevously cleaned out by the French Revolution - in the form of Napoleon's bayonets - returned to Spain and Portugal . In England , those who did not want to help those fighting against the tyrants came anywhere, only for the violence of the Philhellenic movement , let the Greeks see , even though there are small British islets a few hundred meters from the western Greek coast, which no one remembers today, but of course the to contemporaries they carry the promise that Great Britain's fleet of liberty will appear to intervene in the Greco-Turkish struggle.
There were two lines everywhere in Latin America , those who see in the Napoleonic war the opportunity to get rid of the Iberian tyrants, and they could rely somewhat on Great Britain and even France before 1789. And since Napoleon beat Spain and Portugal, he finally succeeded . Argentinians, Brazilians, etc. will be their own masters. They did not create the best of all possible worlds: but they became free republics.
However, King Louis 18 of France regained his throne from the tyrants and could not continue the Bourbon foreign policy of 50 years earlier, which somewhat supported the subjects of the Spanish-Portuguese king against their king.
Latin America was left alone, it seems that the Spanish and Portuguese are coming back, many free republics will become colonies again, which have taken the path that the USA showed fifty years ago against its own colonial ruler.
That's when the USA steps in. What he says so far is not interfering, since the isolationist idea is strong, there is no need for a strong federal government or a strong federal army. Now yes.
President Monroe, clashing with isolationists , rejects the news . America is for Americans. Not British, not French, not Spanish and Portuguese .
Those who doubted this later got a cold. The Mexican counter-revolution of the 19th century, better known to us from western movies , could have been a friend of America , but to its defeat it allied itself with Napoleon III, with the Americans on one side and the French on the other. The US decision was clear. America was able to negotiate with Soviet Union: the pro-American regime in Cuba in 1963 should not be reinstated, it should remain American , and many things can be said about Castro, but it is difficult to make it not an American phenomenon. The Argentine military junta heading towards the Soviet Union after

the Falkland Islands must fall . It's okay if they topple Pinochet - but let them be American. How does Tolkien say it? The free people of the West.
xxx
Europe belongs to the Europeans, not to Eurasia . Hellas and not Persia. Not of the barbaric Teutons who raised the Indian symbol, the swastika, to the flag. Not the Chinese. Not the Arab oil magnates. This was done by Lincoln, then by the two Roosevelts, Eisenhower, Kennedy, (with the "ich bin Berliner") the elder Bush, who tore up his speech in Budapest in the rain , and Clinton, who intervened in the South Slavic crisis, saw it this way.
Biden is also following this line .
Who is the heir of the Norwegian sailors - because this is Ukraine "zapadnik" , i.e. western messenger - who is the man of the most special genre of Western art, the political comedy , who can also be called the Ukrainian Petőfi, undertakes to protect Europe for us.
In the meantime, of course, Viktor Orbán would shut the mouths of many, many of us.
How does Attila József – perhaps the greatest Hungarian poet of the 20th entury say it?
"And where the bastards gathered in camps
they persecute the order of my poems,
fraternal tanks start up
to bum around rhymes .
I say: Man is not big yet.
But he imagines, well, he's a stranger.
See it with your two parents' eyes:
spirit and love!"
No matter how much the tyrants want to prevent this, there are those who say the poem, the poem that, as freedom, will give birth to a new order on the Crimean peninsula and Budapest.
And maybe there will be sister tanks.
That's why I celebrate the Monroe Principle.

01.08. 2023
I don't think I've ever been proud of a military award that my friend received, it seems that this one had to come too...And soon the two of you...
https://jozsefvarosujsag.hu/a-vilagon-masodikkent-kapta.../
ORDER OF MERIT FOR LOYAL SERVICE
JULY 31, 2023
Rebró Fanni
FANNY REBRO
Gábor Iványi and his brother were the second in the world to receive this Ukrainian state award
The Ukrainian army honored the Iványs for their continuous assistance to the war-stricken Ukrainian civilian population, making them the first Hungarians and the second in the world to receive this recognition.
On Monday morning, Gábor Iványi and Miklós Iványi were honored for their humanitarian services by the Ukrainian army. Commander of the Territorial Defense Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Tanchyura Ihor Major General Ivanovich
Order of Merit for Loyal Service III. degree
donated to Gábor Iványi and his brother, pastor Miklós Iványi. The ceremonial handover took place in the meeting room of the Hungarian Evangelical Brotherhood in Dankó Street.
The order of merit was handed over by Colonel Mikola Zhuravlov .

the escalation of the war in early 2022, the Oltalom Karitatív Egyesület, under the leadership of pastor Miklós Iványi, has been regularly delivering various donations to Ukrainian civilians.
Gábor Iványi previously told RTL Klub:
"We are spreading the word that the Hungarians are a solidary and sensitive people, and for those for whom politics is not about the desire to dominate or the greed and tricks of some, but about humanity, that kind of politics is supported by a lot of well-intentioned people here. […] If a person can do something in such a situation, it is definitely to express and convey his humanity and compassion towards the attacked. If Russia were to be attacked by anyone, then we would stand there with the Russian people."
At the ceremonial handover, Gábor Iványi said that it is well known that their church association is in poor financial conditions, yet they were able to help the needy a lot, because many people supported them in their mission.
They also received money and material donations, so Gábor Presser offered an electric piano, Péter Nádas offered the royalties for his book, and many others also donated - as we have already reported.
During their trips to Ukraine, the charitable association took out donations worth roughly HUF 100 million, (0,3 million Euro) although according to Iványi, this is just a drop in the ocean. Among other things, they planted fruit trees, renovated schools and kindergartens, brought food and clothes. But it also happened that a lady who took care of the people camping with her for a while had domestic animals taken from her house.
"Mostly on the spot, it was possible to understand what can and should be done with a good heart and help to make the world more livable there, and to bring the other face of Hungary to Ukraine, the love and solidarity of those people who see exactly what we is happening. The cunning and lying propaganda that mentions peace reminds me of the peace struggle of the 1950s, that if you collect paper and metal, you also protect peace. At that time, the Russian-Soviet side was the good side, and it was America, of course, who wanted evil," said Gábor Iványi in his speech.
According to Iványi, Hungary can stay out of the war when if the current leadership at the head of the country leaves as soon as possible.
He said they try to encourage each other with small gestures. Ever since they knew that the admission of Finland and Sweden to NATO would face Hungarian obstacles, among other things, because according to the government they had not behaved decently enough with Hungary, the Ukrainian, Swedish and (until the Hungarian vote for NATO membership) Finnish anthems were played at the end of the services. By the way, they are not in the habit of playing hymns.
The country is full of fake posters with the faces of those who are supposedly pro-war, he continued his current political reflection: There is no sensible person who is pro-war, pro-war are sick people. War does not begin with taking up arms, but with having who divide societies and turn people against each other , and the killing without weapons starts, said Gábor Iványi - "and everyone suffers because of this". He also spoke about the Ukrainian people: despite the tragedies, Iványi feels that the Ukrainian people are proud and want to live. The atmosphere is much more welcoming, they support each other, with us the atmosphere seems to be more warlike. And the traces of the war on the economy seem to be felt less. Gasoline and food are cheaper.
Iványi thanked Colonel Mikola for getting to know so many wonderful people through him. Ordinary people who are engineers, teachers, mothers and fathers in everyday life . He would like to see behind the uniform their civil reality in the future and the country they are building. They begin their free and independent existence with a great lesson, that freedom has a price, and that the peoples who do not pay this price can do it themselves and suffer

the yoke they put on their necks: those ambiguous situations, from which only shame and submission come.
According to Iványi, you can seriously talk about peace negotiations when there are no more occupiers in the country.
Then Colonel Mykola Zhuravlov took the floor. He expressed his gratitude to the Iványs and all the Hungarian volunteer helpers and donors. He said that he knows that the opinion of the Hungarian people does not agree with what is said in the propaganda. According to the colonel, it is gratifying that in these difficult times it is possible to have such good relationships and friendships, which will remain in the future. He acknowledged the work of the Iványis, who not only sent donations, but also personally took them to them every time, thus also supporting them emotionally.
Several former politicians appeared at the event, which received a lot of media coverage, and the event formally ended after the two speeches."

03.08.2023

Some of my pacifist friend complains to me why I celebrate arms and bravery (I mean the Ukrainians) when a pure military solution will not lead to a solution anyway, sooner or later we will have to negotiate, why I don't hear the voice of love and moderation, etc...
It would have been too cheap for me to answer that "fortunately, you have nothing to fear, because - instead of you - the Russians will be stopped by the Poles and the Finns", and obviously it would also have been too cheap to say that "in 1938, the war-avoidance strategy also worked great strategy", if, for example , someone died of the shame of having Prague with its golden tower thrown away, they could really escape the experience of the outbreak of the Second World War...
Rather, I told him:
Thermopylae famous for the military achievement that Leonidas , at the head of 300 soldiers, held up the Persian army of hundreds of thousands and thereby provided an opportunity for Athens and the Greek hinterland in general to take appropriate steps.
This is apparently a military act, an apparently symbolic act, great diplomats can wave at it superiorly: romance.
But in Sparta there were two political camps, one of Leonidas , the party of the conflict with the Persians, and another party led by the other king of Sparta, (because there were two kings in Sparta) The people of this latter camp said: it is possible to come to an agreement with the Persians by ceding the eastern and northern parts of the European Greek lands, concentrating the defense at the entrance to the Peloponnesian peninsula. After the sacrifice of Leonidas, this party never gained a majority again, and the militarily most important Greek state clearly became the protector of Greek civilization.
In Athens too, two political camps faced each other. One camp represented that the population should be temporarily placed in safety on the nearby island of Salamis, and that after the Persian attack, in preparation for the next one, Athens should not only be rebuilt, but also made into a military power with an architectural defense system and social organization tools, and the city's self-awareness in the future City Defender It should be organized around the cult of Athena Pallas. The other camp represented that the city's elite and the state treasury should be transferred to distant southern Italy, e.g. to Syracuse , and the majority should come to terms with the Persians and, like the Greek cities in Asia Minor, submit to Persian rule. The sacrifice of Leonidas - the fact that the Spartans, who were considered enemies rather than friends, died for Athens - put the anti-Persian party of Athens in a winning position. Themistocles organized the anti-Persian resistance on the basis of this political mood.

Unyielding, heroic resistance is not only a military virtue, but also helps the civilians who represent the resistance against the wavering.
In the spirit of this, I believe that there is no weapon that should not be given to Ukraine if it asks for it, and that is why I believe that there is no such financial burden that the free world should not assume for the sake of Ukraine's victory, that there is no shortage of energy or grain that burdens our everyday lives inconvenience, which would be an exorbitant price.
Peace - as in Germany or Japan in 1945 - can only be achieved by fully serving the war aims of the aggressor.

29.10.2023

Already visible:
https://youtu.be/1LVMA22O_P0

Sweden and the security of the Western world
Sweden ouch västvärldens security

In the afternoon at 2 p.m.
online mini-conference
WJLF does not deal professionally with either Sweden or security policy. He is just ashamed of the Hungarian government.
14.00 Gábor Iványi: Opening
14.10 István Gyarmati: Sweden and NATO
14.30 Attila Mesterházy: Sweden viewed from the NATO parliament
14.50 debate with audience participation
The conference will be online and posted on the Internet

29.10.2023

are mapped in this case of Hungarian obstruction of Sweden's NATO accession .
That is, those who believe Orbán and Szijárto that there is no need to be hostile to the Russians, and that Hungary has a kind of 16-17 centuries. As Transylvania in the 20th century, it has to walk an intermediate path between east and west, it deems it acceptable that the Fidesz-follower majority in the Hungarian parliament - apparently expressing Orbán's will - is a little uncomfortable with the NATO expansion, which obviously violates Russian interests.
I don't want to argue to THEM that this FIDESZ policy should not be supported. If you know a FIDESZ voter, please pass it on...🙂
1. NATO skeptics also know that one of the greatest traumas in Hungarian history was the Holocaust. I mean, not only the murder of hundreds of thousands of our compatriots, but the realization that our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents did so little (if they did anything at all and didn't just stand idly by, even profiting from other people's troubles) in 1944, and then with this fact, how little were ready, we were ready to account properly. The awareness of great trouble - in normal cases - includes some kind of collective gratitude that we feel towards those who help us in times of trouble. Although there were several aid providers, the Swedish diplomat Wallenberg still became the symbol of foreign aid. There has always been social knowledge about this - that's why quite a few changed their surname to "Swedish", and it became - as soon as possible - the Wallenberg association, statue, street...

Since then, rich and centrally located Sweden has not demanded too much gratitude from poor and peripherally situated Hungary. Let's just say that it would have been possible to blink now by approving this case, which is so important for the Swedish national interest, if it is true, and not the second to last.
2. NATO-skeptics also know that one of the most difficult legacies of Hungarian historical consciousness is the Trianon syndrome, not simply the fact that millions of Hungarian-speaking people became a minority, but also the fact that it is difficult to process the fact that it is one of Europe's largest In 1920, the Budapest-centered country was transformed from a state into one of the smallest states in Europe. It can be said that Belgium or the Netherlands experienced a relatively greater symbolic loss, whose area before 1960 was several million square kilometers , but of course it can be dismissed - they were distant areas, not as close as the two hundred thousand square kilometers between the present-day Hungarian border and the historical border . Sweden, on the other hand, experienced something similar to the loss of Hungary's status as a great power. The proportions and importance of the historical Swedish empire and today's Sweden are roughly the same as the historical Hungarian empire and the country after 1920. The Swedes have processed this brilliantly - Sweden's relationship with the successor states has become exemplary, and minorities are not a source of mutual antagonism either. NATO membership is the logical conclusion of this exemplary process: it represents the end of the illusion that "Swedish freedom" can be defended in a world conflict without cooperation with the Western world. Anyone who at that time - giving up illusions of neutrality - voted yes for Hungarian NATO accession, was also a voter of any party, can be expected to support Swedish accession as well.
3. NATO-skeptics believe that NATO armaments represent a stable market for the American military industry, and that the military industry developments in NATO countries are adapted to American interests. The Hungarian right-wing voter learned - if not from the Grippen case - that there is at least one more large military industrial and military development center in the Western world, namely Sweden . Anyone who has a problem with NATO, that the American interest in it is too strong, should also support the Swedish accession...
4. Ever since the official memory policy of the right in Hungary accepted the fact that we are related to the Finns instead of the “Huns” or other legendary people of the East, all people with ethnicist arguments should be worried about the Finns. As early as 1940, it became clear that the Finns were good soldiers, but also that if the Russian steamroller really started, help would be urgently needed to protect Finland. Now - this may not surprise many people - in the north , where NATO and Finland meet, it is cold and the roads are bad, so the Western forces helping Finland can only go through Sweden if they have to, or they can go there in order to deter the Russians ....
So - on this occasion - a FIDESZ voter who is skeptical of America and NATO does not have much reason to support Viktor Orbán and the FIDESZ faction....

07-12 2023

The question is not whether there will be a war between Russia and the West, but where it will be fought. If I understand correctly, one alternative is that in the outer zone of the historical Russian Empire, i.e. in Central Asia, Ukraine, the Black Sea and the Baltic, and in Belarus, and the other is that in Central Europe, the Balkans, and the Polish-German plain. If someone does not really want the war to come here, their only choice is to keep the war in the outer zone of the said Russian empire.

Now there are two ways to do this: one is to appeal to the abundant historical experience of the governments, elites, and population there, that it is not a very good thing to be part of the Russian empire, it is still better to stand in line and doorknob in the West. In this case, these countries, elites, and populations will take on something from the fight, which of course we have to fight, since against a continent-wide Russian empire, only another continent-wide force can defend itself.
Now, this "periphery of the Russian empire" consists mostly of societies that are not very prosperous in nature and that are not completely accustomed to warfare, or from deprivation, so they can give us what we traditionally have the least - life force, without which you can win a war, right? (cyber , drones , etc.) etc.) but the vanquished cannot be pacified, for that you need hundreds of thousands of armies ready to carry out occupation and order-maintenance tasks, this was missing in Iraq and Afghanistan too. (After a few successful wars in the Middle East, Israel did not invade three countries because it was not superfluous half a million soldiers.)
If the local population (elites, governments) feel that they cannot count on the West, they will either side with the Russians or minimize their efforts, so we will have to deal with them either as enemies (reluctant Russian minions) or as neutrals.
That's when the real pain will come, because then the Russians will have to be stopped in densely populated areas of Europe, basically with armies that have only seen the "enemy" in military exercises, and with a population for whom even a twenty-minute power outage is intolerable. And there is no scenario - unless Brazilians or Indians can be brought here - who will manage the millions of square kilometers liberated after the war ....
You don't have to be a strategic genius to see that perhaps it would be better to keep potential allies on our side, to give them plenty of weapons, money and, if necessary, soldiers - after all, there are so few of the latter in Europe that it would hardly be noticeable on the front .
I know the counter-argument that Putin will get a little angry. But I have bad news, he doesn't like us very much anymore.

26,01 2024

now that the Hungarian parliament is still having a little fun with Sweden's NATO membership, it is worth recalling the following great story, as it circulated in the Educational Network at the time
"There was an online conference today - by Wesley - Sweden and the security of the Western world, two speakers followed by a free discussion, in meet ...
... I received notifications from five colleagues last night and this morning about the following.
announced by WJLF , since it - for them - is a career changer. it seems, but in the eyes of the "leadership" it would be considered a provocative political position, "partly because of the organizing body", partly because of "Hungary's foreign policy interests", and participation in such a thing - even in free time - is not quite compatible with the status of a university lecturer.
Each of the five dialogues - as far as I can judge based on the words of the colleagues who recalled, but of course did not make the recording - seemed to contain the same phrases, i.e. as if there was a syllabus of one or two paragraphs for the callers."
What has changed since then? Yeah, nothing. Even then, the Hungarian Prime Minister claimed that it was not up to him, but the well-known independent FIDESZ faction, to decide what the Hungarian Parliament would accept and what not. In comparison, the Prime Minister again invited his Swedish counterpart to discuss the matter, which he is already

convinced is in line with the Hungarian national interest , since he would not have signed without it...
Erdoğan brought a car, didn't he, and Putin mainly doesn't publish promises , from the former documents of the Soviet secret service... The difficulty is that Swedish laws - like those of most Western European countries - prohibit the bribing and blackmailing of foreign state leaders... But what will he say then???